

Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging their claim for foreign priority and the certified copy of the priority document.

This application also claims domestic priority based on applicants' earlier provisional. Acknowledgment would be appreciated.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that the only record rejection has been overcome. Further favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: January 4, 2005

By: Mary Katherine Baumeister
Mary Katherine Baumeister
Registration No. 26,254

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620